

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
7:00 PM Regular Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order and opened at 7:00 by Mayor Sandy Henley. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 10, 2022. This meeting was held in person in the Westampton Township Municipal Building Courtroom. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeewoman Burkley	Present
Committeeman Carr	Present
Committeeman DeSilva	Present
Mayor Henley	Present
Committeewoman Mungo	Present

Acting Clerk/Administrator Wendy Gibson, Township Solicitor Robert Wright, Chief of Police Stephen Ent, and Deputy Clerk Monique Wylie were also present.

Presentation – Joe Henry of Hardenbergh Insurance Group presented their annual Safety on the Agenda meeting. The topic of the meeting was Slips, Trips and Falls.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Gary Berberian, 138 Winstead Drive, noted that there were no minutes on the agenda for this meeting. He also asked a question regarding the content of the Police Department Report: if the overdoses mentioned were illicit narcotics. Chief Ent and Mr. Berberian discussed the options available to people who overdose.

He commented that on the Public Works report, there was no author nor were no costs mentioned within the report that referenced the services. Per our Ordinance, we should have costs listed. He contested that the Committee should not legally accept the report.

Ms. Gibson confirmed that the report was written by the Public Works Supervisor, Chris Taylor.

He had a comment about Resolution 66-22, which was drafted by Bowman and Company; he questioned whether they should have produced the Resolution. He also noted there was a date typo in section 17, where it appears the tables reference the year 2020.

Township Solicitor Mr. Wright did not have the Resolution available but confirmed that it was inclusive of the notes expiring as well as anything moving forward.

Mr. Berberian questioned several typos within the EEOC requirements. Mr. Wright explained that it was a prerequisite of the acceptance of the annual budget and confirmed that there were some typos.

Mayor Henley, Ms. Burkley, Ms. Mungo, and Township Solicitor Wright discussed what needed to be tabled and what could be passed at the meeting. It was decided to table the Public Works report and Resolution 66-22, to be adopted at a later meeting.

All in favor to close public comment. All ayes.

Monthly Reports: Westampton Township Police Department Report, Westampton Township Fire/EMS Report, Westampton Township Public Works Department Report - will be tabled to add the costs.

Resolutions:

a. 65-22 Payment of Vouchers – this resolution approves the payment of bills through 04/19/2022.

Motion to approve Resolution 65-22 made by Mr. DeSilva; seconded by Ms. Burkley. Motion carried 5-0.

b. 66-22 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds

Motion to table Resolution 65-22 made by Ms. Burkley; seconded by Mr. Carr. Motion carried 5-0.

c. 67-22 Resolution Adopting Municipal Budget – Public hearing on adoption of budget.

Motion to open to public hearing on Resolution 65-22 made by Ms. Mungo; seconded by Mr. Carr.

Ms. Burkley asked if there was anything that could be shared with the public to help them understand why taxes were being raised. Mr. Berberian pointed out another typo on the agenda.

Motion to close public comment and adopt Resolution 67-22 made by Mr. Carr; seconded by Ms. Burkley. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda Resolutions:

a. 68-22 Resolution Authorizing the Contract with the Burlington County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund Retrospective Program

b. 69-22 Resolution Approving Tax Lien Block 1401, Lot 6

c. 70-22 Resolution Authorizing Compliance with the EEOC Requirements

Motion to approve Resolutions 68-22 through 70-22 made by Mr. DeSilva; seconded by Ms. Burkley. Motion carried 5-0.

OPM Mailbox & Correspondence:

None.

Open to Public Comment:

Rosalind Lockley, 98 Sharpless Boulevard, asked if any if there was any information on the work that is being done on Springside Road, and if the Committee could give some information.

Mayor Henley confirmed that all comments will be answered at the end.

Gary Berberian, 138 Winstead Drive, discussed an article he read regarding the Spotted Lantern Fly, and was concerned about the damage that humans were causing trying to contain the insects. Instead of spraying insecticides, people were not using the proper pest control. He asked for a friendly reminder on the website.

All in favor to close public comment.

Dates to Remember:

Dates to Remember: Next Scheduled Meeting May 3, 2022.

Committee Liaison Reports/Comments:

Committeeman DeSilva attended the annual Easter egg hunt. He noted that it wasn't as big as before, but kids were out there and loved it. He thanked the Recreation department for their time and effort.

Committeeman Carr noted he also attended the egg hunt, and his daughter really enjoyed it. He stated that the Recreation department did a great job. He also wanted to note that he observed the Police department conduct a training today. He has all the confidence and trust that they are protecting the community.

Committeewoman Burkley noted that the ham dinner will not be held this May. She stated it was hard to find hams, and they are much more expensive this year than priors. They will regroup to have it in October.

She also requested to have informal workshops to discuss the Township's future and to have public discussions. The town has lost a lot of businesses, and she feels that they should work together to bring businesses back to Westampton.

She referenced the grant for \$233,000 that the group could discuss. She stated that we can't move forward with just an agenda that we vote on, yes or no, and she requested the entire committee's support.

Mayor Henley answered the resident's question about the movement by Springside Road. He confirmed that there is a new housing development that the Land Development Board has been working on for some time. The Mayor, Ms. Burkley and Ms. Lockley discussed the situation with the development and how the schools may be impacted and possible preservation of open space.

He also commented on Ms. Burkley's comment about the hams and that the prices are reduced after the Easter holiday.

He wanted to note that he doesn't disagree with the workshops beginning before the meeting; however, it's difficult for members to come out earlier. The things that need to be discussed will be done during or after the meeting. He confirmed that the entire team will need to decide what happens with meeting days and times.

He thanked the Police Chief, the neighbors and the resident who always comes out to support the actions of the Committee.

Executive Session:

Resolution No. 04-19-2022: Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Township Committee, and Support Staff to Meet in Private Session and Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public From that Portion of the Meeting Dealing with Specific Issues Requiring Non-Public Discussions – Personnel. This session will occur after adjournment. No official action will be taken.

Executive Session began at 7:45 PM, and the Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk